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ABSTRACT

This collection of abstracts is part of a continuing series providing information on recent doctoral dissertations. The 21 titles deal with a variety of topics, including the following: (1) the black press of Tennessee from 1865 to 1980; (2) news values and decision making; (3) news coverage of the Indiana State Assembly; (4) an information theory approach to reader enjoyment of print journalism; (5) the effects of newspaper accounts of nuclear power plant incidents on reader understanding and attitudes; (6) the social ecology of the newspaper and the professional journalist; (7) journalists and jurists; (8) the effects of computer assisted instruction in writing skills on journalism students in beginning newswriting classes; (9) the Newspaper Preservation Act; (10) international news coverage in United States newsmagazines; (11) the photojournalist and the law; (12) news releases and the making of Washington, D.C. news; and (13) the urban daily press in Baltimore, Maryland, from 1797 to 1816. (FL)

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Compiled by the Staff
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This bibliography has been compiled as part of a continuing series designed to make information on relevant dissertations available to users of the ERIC system. Monthly issues of Dissertation Abstracts International are reviewed in order to compile abstracts of dissertations on related topics, which thus become accessible in searches of the ERIC data base. Ordering information for the dissertations themselves is included at the end of the bibliography.

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THE NEWSPAPER ON THE EVE OF THE WAR OF 1812: CHANGES IN CONTENT PATTERNS, 1808-1812

Order No. DA8229238

AVERY, DONALD RAY, PH.D. *Southern Illinois University at Carbondale*, 1982. 293pp. Major Professor: L. Erwin Atwood

A major emphasis among American journalists, prior to the War of 1812, was the coverage of foreign news. Such concern with England and Europe ended, historians say, with the War of 1812. Journalism historians see the war as the seminal event in the shift of American newspapers from foreign to domestic news content. Historians also argue that newspapers reflected the sectionalism found in the population. However, little research has been directed at studying these traditional views.

This study sought to determine if the shift from foreign to domestic news content had been an on-going process for some years prior to the War of 1812. Also, an attempt was made to identify differences and similarities in content patterns among the newspapers.

Content analysis was performed on a 10 percent sample of all American newspapers existing in 1810. A total of 1,395 editions were studied for the period 1808-1812. The data were subjected to analysis of variance, t-test, Scheffé procedure, and Mann's non-parametric test for the trend.

It was found that foreign news declined significantly over the five-year period while domestic news increased significantly. The major newspaper content, with nearly half the total space, was advertising. The major news category was foreign relations news. Except for local government news, significant changes over time were found in all newspaper content. Domestic news increased and foreign news decreased in a virtual one-to-one ratio. There were significant regional differences found in all categories of content. Newspapers in the South and New England were most nearly alike in most categories while the frontier and the Middle Atlantic States were similar. Overall, newspapers in all regions appeared to be remarkably similar in the proportion of content devoted to the different categories.

The findings suggest that American newspapers were becoming more domestic in their news concerns in the years just before the War of 1812 and the shift from a major concern with foreign news to an interest in more domestic content appears to have been virtually a *fait accompli* by the end of 1810. Also, this research suggests that the newspapers of the different regions, while demonstrating differences, were remarkably alike in their news content.

A COMPARISON OF SELECTED WRITING SKILLS OF HIGH SCHOOL JOURNALISM AND NON-JOURNALISM STUDENTS

Order No. DA8304361

BLINN, JOHN ROBERT, PH.D. *Ohio University*, 1982. 132pp. Director of Dissertation: J. W. Click

This study examines the proficiencies of high school seniors on a controlled information human interest exercise using gender and writing preparation as independent variables. The writing instrument was administered to advanced placement and senior honors composition classes in 12 Ohio secondary schools in rural, suburban, and urban settings.

Students were separated into one of four groups: journalism male, journalism female, non-journalism male, or non-journalism female. The writing efforts were examined using two way analysis of variance, Pearson product-moment correlation coefficients, and descriptive analysis. The 19 dependent variables used for each group included 12 writing skill criteria, six readability factors, and the total number of errors.

Data analysis revealed that journalism writers make fewer errors in most of the writing skill criteria than do non-journalism students. In all four of the criteria selected as measures of information presentation and selection judgment, errors in fact, information omission, opening sentence, and editorializing, journalism students make significantly fewer errors than do the non-journalism writers in the study.

In three of the four criteria used as measures of conventions of word usage and appropriate language, spelling, wrong word for context, and redundancy, journalism students make fewer mistakes than do the non-journalism writers. Only in the phrasing criterion was there no significant difference between the error means of journalism and non-journalism students.

Finally, in two of the four criteria examined as measures of grammar correctness, punctuation and agreement, journalism writers make fewer errors than do non-journalism students. No significant differences were obtained for any of the four groups in the run-on sentence and sentence construction criteria.

The findings of this study suggest that prior journalistic writing instruction and practice may influence certain expository writing skills of high school seniors. It is not surprising that journalism students make fewer errors than their peers in spelling, wrong word for context, punctuation, agreement, and redundancy, for these are editing skills stressed by journalism teachers that few non-journalism writers are exposed to during high school. A few criteria, errors in fact, information omission, opening sentence, and editorializing, are specific skills inherent in the teaching of journalistic writing.

THE BLACK PRESS OF TENNESSEE: 1865-1980

Order No. DA8303673

BROWN, KAREN FITZGERALD, PH.D. *The University of Tennessee*, 1982. 221pp. Major Professor: Dr. George Everett

At least 112 black newspapers have been published in Tennessee, beginning with the *Colored Tennessean* in 1865. William B. Scott, an East Tennessee harness-maker, and his son, William Jr., published the *Colored Tennessean* in Nashville on or about April 29, making it one of the first black newspapers in the South.

From 1865 to 1899 there were at least 35 black papers published in the state, 52 from 1900 to 1950, and 25 from 1951 to 1980. By the end of the period there were only three black papers being printed in the state: the *Memphis Tri-State Defender*, *Memphis Mid-South Express* and the *Nashville Metropolitan*. The average life of Tennessee's black newspapers was 7.4 years, below the national average for black papers of 9 years (according to a 1950 study by Armistead Pride).

The *Nashville Globe* (1906-1960) seems to have been the most significant paper studied. In addition to having had the longest existence, the paper also was a force in some political gains by blacks. Other significant papers and their years of existence were the *Memphis Tri-State Defender* (1951-present), *Chattanooga Observer* (31), *Knoxville Flashlight Herald* (32), *Memphis World* (41) and the *East Tennessee News* (42).

The most famous figure in the state's black press was Ida B. Wells-Barnett, a nationally known journalist at the turn of the century. She became an international lecturer in a crusade against lynching. Wells-Barnett was editor of the *Memphis Free Speech* during her early years. Other important figures associated with the state's black press included Richard Henry Boyd and Henry A. Boyd of the *Nashville Globe*.

NEWS VALUES AND DECISION MAKING: A STUDY OF GATEKEEPING AT A MEDIUM-SIZE NEWSPAPER

Order No. DA8303677

CHISM, CECIL CLARK, PH.D. *The University of Tennessee*, 1982. 149pp. Major Professor: Dr. George Everett

The term gatekeeper was brought into the field of mass communications in 1950 when White applied to the daily newspaper Lewin's thesis that social forces flow along channels and pass through gates governed either by impartial rules or by gatekeepers who make decisions on what passes through. This study departs from the usual format of surveys and statistical analyses and employes a participant-observer concept in which the researcher used his position on the copydesk of the subject newspaper to study firsthand the manner in which stories are chosen for Page One.

On-the-job quotes, recorded unobtrusively by the observer as his colleagues commented on their work, reveal a particular insight into the rationale used by gatekeepers as they moved stories to Page One or from Page One inside.

The researcher isolated six types of factors--traditional news values, personal interest of the gatekeeper, publisher's policy, perceived publisher interest, newsroom pressure and competition with a rival daily--which seemed to influence the choice of a story for Page One. For each day he worked for one year (245 issues), he categorized the Page One stories according to the manner he perceived their having been chosen. The results were then compared to the results of an earlier, shorter study at the same paper but under largely different gatekeepers. He proposed five hypotheses: (1) Perceived publisher interest and established publisher policy have major bearing on choices of stories for Page One; (2a) Concern for whether the opposition paper will use the story is often a determining factor and (2b) the effect of a joint operating agreement between the two papers was negligible; (3) Perceived reader interest is a strong factor in selection of stories for Page One; (4) Interests of the individual gatekeepers are strong factors in choice of stories for Page One, and (5) Newsroom pressure often influenced the choice of individual stories for Page One.

Using data in the form of observer's notes taken covertly over the study period, the researcher found that the evidence confirmed all hypotheses. Publisher policy and publisher interest accounted for 17.2 percent of the stories used. Personal interests of the gatekeeper was also high, 10 percent. Results also indicated that further study, especially in such matters as the news conference and the role of the electronic newsroom, would be valuable.

HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPALS' AND NEWSPAPER ADVISERS' EVALUATIONS OF THE IMPORTANT CHARACTERISTICS FOR NEWSPAPER ADVISERS Order No. DA8309052

DODD, JULIE EM, ED.D. *University of Kentucky*, 1982. 144pp. Director: Dr. Harry V. Barnard

The purpose of this study was to determine the effect of a high school newspaper adviser's or principal's own background in journalism on the importance that he/she attached to newspaper advisers having a journalism background. The study also examined the relationship between the adviser's journalism background and the number of conflicts that he/she had with the administration and with newspaper staff members. In addition, a comparison was made of the principals' and advisers' ratings of important characteristics for advisers.

To obtain the information needed, a mail survey was conducted of high school principals and newspaper advisers in Kentucky. Two questionnaires were developed, one for the principals and one for the advisers. Techniques of exploratory data analysis (Hartwig & Dearing, 1981), t-tests, and one-way analysis of variance were used in examining the data. Because the population of the study was not a random sample, the results were reported as descriptive statistics.

The following results were obtained: (1) The adviser's own background in journalism did not affect the importance that he/she placed on an adviser being certified to teach journalism. (2) The principal's own background in journalism did not affect the importance that he/she placed on an adviser being certified to teach journalism. (3) Advisers with college journalism training were more likely to have conflicts with their publication staff members than those advisers with no college journalism training. (4) The more college journalism training an adviser had, the greater the likelihood that he/she would have conflicts with the school administration. (5) In evaluating 13 personality characteristics of advisers, major differences existed between the principals' and advisers' ratings of six of the items. (6) In evaluating 13 training characteristics of advisers, major differences existed between the principals' and advisers' rating of six of the items.

The results of the study have implications for college and university teacher preparation programs and journalism programs, for potential newspaper advisers, for the Kentucky State Department of Education, and for principals and boards of education.

NEWS COVERAGE OF THE INDIANA STATE SENATE: AN INTERACTION THEORY APPROACH Order No. DA8308855

FICO, FREDERICK GERALD, PH.D. *Indiana University*, 1982. 293pp.

The way reporters and state senators interacted to make news during the 1982 session of the Indiana General Assembly is analyzed in this dissertation. Concepts provided by political science, sociology and mass communication research define qualities of reporters and legislators likely to shape interaction. The core notion is that personal goals and institutional situations govern how senators and reporters interact. The implication is that the different cooperative patterns produced have different consequences for the news the public receives.

A multi-method approach was used. Thirty-four reporters and 39 state senators were surveyed. Nearly 300 stories were content analyzed. Follow-up interviews with selected reporters and senators supplemented the surveys, and two annual sessions of the legislature were observed extensively.

Findings indicate that reporter-source interaction was influenced by reporter self-concept and perceived editorial concern, and senator committee specialization and political goal orientation. The more reporters perceive an editorial concern with serving audiences, the more diversely they search for sources of information. Reporter role self-concept, however, proved less influential than expected on source use.

Analysis of perceived incentives for interaction also reveals that the exchange of benefits is an important influence on cooperation. Reporters who subscribe to a neutral role self-concept and senators who are subject matter specialists find one another useful in many ways. But contrary to expectations, other types of reporters and senators had far less discriminating exchanges.

An analysis of stories written about the session indicates that more substantive legislative portrayals are conveyed in stories by reporters who perceive an editorial concern for audiences, and in stories by reporters who subscribe strongly to some role self-concept. Legislative procedural portrayals are more common in stories of reporters who perceive an editorial concern with newsroom production needs, and in stories by reporters who subscribe only weakly to any role.

AN INFORMATION THEORY APPROACH TO READER ENJOYMENT OF PRINT JOURNALISM Order No. DA8301212

FINN, HARVEY SETH, PH.D. *Stanford University*, 1982. 181pp.

This two-phase study of reader enjoyment of journalistic prose found a significant correlation between how much an individual enjoys reading one of ten sample articles and how difficult it is to predict content words deleted from the same passages. The study exploits Shannon's probabilistic concept of information and entropy formula as well as Taylor's cloze procedure to develop a measure of the relative unpredictability of the syntactic and the semantic content of each article. The author proposes a hierarchical model of reader enjoyment that accounts for the diverse impact of unpredictability at (1) the decoding, (2) the entertainment-seeking, and (3) the information-seeking levels of cognitive processing.

In the first phase of the study, 160 state college students were asked to read and rate one of ten newspaper and magazine articles reporting the Apollo II moonwalk. In the second phase, a comparable group of 160 students completed cloze procedure readability tests prepared for each of the 800-word passages. In the subsequent scoring and analysis, a critical distinction was made between function words (those that carry syntactic information, e.g. articles, auxiliary verbs, prepositions and pronouns) and content words (those that carry semantic information, e.g. nouns, verbs and adjectives). While the premise of the study was that unpredictable content increased reader arousal and enjoyment, current cognitive models of reading suggested that predictable function words would facilitate information processing, thereby, contributing to reader enjoyment as well.

The results strongly supported this distinction. Analysis of the data showed a significant zero order correlation ($r = .65$, $df = 8$, $p < .05$) between the degree of predictability of the function words and the reader enjoyment levels for each of the articles. The hypothesized relationship between the unpredictability of content words and article enjoyment ($r = .82$, $df = 6$, $p < .02$) achieved significance also, but only when the function word predictability scores were controlled for.

In his discussion, the author focuses on the negative correlation between content predictability and reader enjoyment, which is countertheoretical to the common assumption that readability and reader enjoyment are positively correlated. The analysis suggests that although increased readability facilitates decoding, the entertainment value of journalistic prose stems from the surprise value of its verbal content.

THE EFFECTS OF NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS OF NUCLEAR POWER INCIDENTS ON READER UNDERSTANDING AND ATTITUDE: AN EXPERIMENT Order No. DA8303685

GAGNARD, ALICE LOIS, PH.D. *The University of Tennessee*, 1982. 115pp. Major Professor: Michael Singletary

Purpose of the experiment was to compare effects of different newspaper accounts of nuclear power accidents on reader understanding and attitude. Random samples of 20 each from a college class judged four versions of stories about nuclear power accidents. Each story contained one condition of two independent variables--presence or absence of mention of radiation leakage and presence or absence of a "No Harm Done" caveat downplaying the accident's consequences. Judgments on 11 semantic scales tapped the evaluative dimension of meaning. A control group judged the concept "Newspaper Articles About Nuclear Power Plant Accidents."

General hypotheses predicted that articles about radiation leaks would be judged more "serious" (threatening, unpleasant, exciting, etc.) than those not involving radiation, and that articles without "No Harm Done" statements would be judged more serious than those with such statements. Results showed judgments on the Nonthreatening/Threatening scale drew significantly different responses in line with general hypotheses, and several other scales were directionally consistent with hypotheses, but not statistically significant. On four scales the control group judged the concept of nuclear articles significantly more "serious" than treatment groups judged their articles, giving rise to a "No News is Bad News" explanation as one possible reason for the results. Factor analysis of the semantic scales yielded three item clusters labeled "Conclusive" (Complete/Incomplete, Definite/Uncertain, Clear/Unclear, Good/Bad); "Negative-Evaluative" (Optimistic/Pessimistic, Positive/Negative, Pleasant/Unpleasant, Calming/Exciting, Nonthreatening/Threatening); and "Priority"

THE SOCIAL ECOLOGY OF THE NEWSPAPER AND THE PROFESSIONAL JOURNALIST Order No. DA8229286

KAUL, ARTHUR JESSE, PH.D. *Southern Illinois University at Carbondale*, 1982. 125pp. Major Professor: Dr. James E. Murphy

During the 1970s, journalism historians expressed marked dissatisfactions with Progressive Whig interpretations that had dominated American journalism historiography during the Twentieth Century. Their criticisms called for alternative, even radical, interpretations of the cultural dynamics of journalism. In addition, interdisciplinary and holistic theoretical approaches were advocated to bring alternative interpretations into focus.

The Social Ecology of the Newspaper offers an alternative analysis of the newspaper's contradictory evolution as a species of formal organization within the consciousness industry. The analysis is guided by an integration of Darwinian evolution and Marxist dialectic. Dialectic ecology is a synthesis of perspectives drawn from the sociology of organizations. The ecology perspective emphasizes the determinative influence of the environment on the development of organizations in the three stages of variation, selection and retention; the dialectic perspective introduces the concept of contradictions that rupture into life-threatening crises in the evolution of organizations. The variation, selection and retention stages in the life-cycle of newspapers are examined in the four dimensions of population, technology, resources and adaptation maneuvers. The newspaper industry evolved through a placid phase of disorganization before evolving along the lines of the following historic scenario: variation, 1825-1845; selection, 1845-1900; and retention, 1900 to present. Contradictions generated by organizational growth and adaptation ruptured into periods of crisis: 1825-1845, 1890-1900; and 1960 to present. Crisis is manifest in organizational, epistemological and moral terms.

The Professional Journalist examines the rise of the reporter within a literary tradition, within a social grouping, and within the newspaper industry's development. Journalism as a literary form evolved within a dialectic of competing styles of sacred and secular literature. Reporters emerged from a social grouping that defined itself in terms of capitalism and Protestantism. Professionalism was both a stabilizing and destabilizing ideological stance in the retention stage of newspapers, its contradictions generating life-threatening organizational and epistemological conflicts in Twentieth Century journalism.

The Social Ecology of the Newspaper and The Professional Journalist also is a dialectic interpretation that construes American journalism as a microcosm of longstanding socio-cultural antagonisms between property and cultural capital, professional and charismatic journalism and secular and sacred styles of consciousness. The crisis in American journalism is a mirror-image of the crisis in American culture.

A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE PORTRAYAL OF BLACKS AND WHITES IN WHITE-ORIENTED MASS CIRCULATION MAGAZINE ADVERTISEMENTS DURING 1959, 1969 AND 1979 Order No. DA8225053

KERN, MARILYN LOUISE, PH.D. *The University of Wisconsin - Madison*, 1982. 122pp. Supervisor: Professor Ivan L. Preston

The study explores the status of blacks in advertising by conducting a content analysis of white-oriented mass circulation magazine advertisements before, during and after the Civil Rights Movement. The variables explicated were integrated advertising and stereotyping.

The hypotheses for the study were, therefore: (H_1) The proportion of integrated advertisements will be greater for 1969 than for 1959 or 1979. (H_2) The proportion of integrated advertisements depicting blacks in equal/primary roles rather than in secondary roles will be greater for 1969 than for 1959 or 1979. (H_3) The proportion of integrated advertisements depicting blacks in social/work interaction with whites rather than in no interaction with whites will be greater for 1969 than for 1959 or 1979. (H_4) The proportion of integrated advertisements depicting blacks in occupations which depict blacks in professional occupations rather than in athlete/entertainer (stereotypical) occupations will be greater for 1969 than for 1959 or 1979.

The research was conducted by counting and analyzing advertisements taken from randomly selected issues of *Time*, *Women's Day*, *Newsweek*, *Vogue*, *Sports Illustrated*, and *Esquire* during 1959, 1969 and 1979.

The advertisements were categorized as having white models alone, black and white models or black models alone. In addition, the following variables were coded: occupation, interaction, roles, product, age, sex, size and color.

Of 1431 ads examined, only 49 contained identifiable blacks. Subsequently, Hypothesis 1 was supported with respect to the comparison with 1959. Hypothesis 3 was also confirmed. Hypotheses 2 and 4 were not supported.

JOURNALISTS AND JURISTS: THE EVOLUTION OF REPORTER'S PRIVILEGE AFTER *BRANZBURG* Order No. DA8300565

LEFF, DONNA ROSENE, PH.D. *University of California, Berkeley*, 1982. 191pp.

When the Supreme Court held in *Branzburg v. Hayes* that reporters had no constitutional privilege to refrain from cooperating in criminal justice proceedings, it reopened debate about the proper role of the press in a democracy. Journalists claimed without privilege to withhold the identity of sources, reporters would face insurmountable obstacles in the newsgathering process, the "chilling effect." Concurrent social changes caused an increase in investigative reporting, the reporting most affected by court decisions limiting journalist's privilege. Thus, detecting a measurable chill presented methodological problems. This dissertation used several approaches to assess the chilling effect by studying the process of subpoenaing journalists as a proxy. Lawyers, editors and reporters were interviewed at two newspapers, the *Chicago Tribune* and the *Miami Herald*. A mail general survey was conducted of lawyers and editors at 10 large metropolitan newspapers, half in states with shield laws and half in states without them. The studies identified evolution of case law establishing limited media privilege, directly linked to an aggressive network of media lawyers who argued the journalists' case in local and higher courts. Shield laws alone do not affect journalistic behavior or that of their adversaries. Rather, "shield policy," an amalgam of case law, statutes and the policy of public officials

determines the status of reporter's privilege in a given jurisdiction. The *Branzburg* decision resulted in increased legal costs for newspapers, especially observable as diversion of time and resources from the business of news gathering. The possibility that reporter's privilege might reduce the information flow to the criminal justice system is moot. Even when faced with prison, reporters do not expose their confidential sources. Subpoenaing journalists fails as public policy: it is expensive to both journalists and jurists, diverts substantive issues and does not yield the information sought from reporters. Weighing each subpoena on its merits generally has resulted in adequate protection for journalists and their sources. The high costs, however, suggest the government ought to exercise great restraint in subpoenaing journalists, imposing on journalists an equal burden of restraint in using confidential sources judiciously and honestly.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS AND THE FLOW OF INTERNATIONAL NEWS INTO INDIANA: A STUDY OF CONTENT AND EDITORIAL PRACTICES

Order No. DA8300807

MOGEKWU, MATHIAS EBONYE, PH.D. *Indiana University*, 1982. 233pp.

This study uses content analysis, questionnaires and face-to-face interviews with editors to examine foreign news as it goes from the Associated Press (AP) news service, the largest of the international news agencies, to small circulation Indiana newspapers. The major objective is to assess the extent to which cultural and economic similarities between nations and world regions are factors in news flow into America's small newspapers.

A fundamental assumption in this dissertation is that an increase in the attentive public for American foreign policy is desirable. Small newspapers are a very important vehicle for doing that because they are a major source of foreign news for most readers in rural communities.

Findings from the content analysis suggest that wire service and newspaper foreign news, irrespective of the country of origin, focuses heavily on conflict and crises. Even though only about one-fourth of the stories sent by the AP are used by the newspapers, there is a similarity of news category proportions sent by the agency and the proportions of categories used by the newspapers. This similarity suggests that the agency may be setting the news agenda for the newspapers. However, wire service editors and executives say they provide what the newspapers want. The newspaper editors appear to be satisfied with the news service's foreign news coverage and they argue that their primary responsibility is to satisfy the local news needs of the readers. They suggested it was the responsibility of large newspapers and television to provide foreign news.

Countries of the industrialized North appeared in slightly more stories than countries of the developing South. Previous research had found the reverse to be true, suggesting that there is no consistency in the pattern of news flow.

Democracies were featured in news stories about as often as non-democracies. However, non-democracies appeared to be more likely than democracies to generate conflict news while democracies are more likely to generate non-political crime stories.

There was no evidence to indicate that the kind of news from English-speaking countries is different from that from non-English-speaking countries. But English-speaking countries, as a block, produced far fewer stories than non-English-speaking countries. . . . (Author's abstract exceeds stipulated maximum length. Discontinued here with permission of author.) UMI

EFFECTS OF COMPUTER-ASSISTED INSTRUCTION IN WRITING SKILLS ON JOURNALISM STUDENTS IN BEGINNING NEWSWRITING CLASSES Order No. DA8301116

OATES, WILLIAM ROBERT, PH.D. *Indiana University*, 1982. 312pp.

A computer-assisted instruction (CAI) curriculum in basic writing skills, the Language Arts Routing System (LARS), was evaluated for its effectiveness among 302 beginning newswriting students at Indiana University's School of Journalism from 1977 to 1979. The CAI/LARS instructional medium was the PLATO educational computer system.

The students comprised 15 course sections, 12 experimental and three control, taught by 10 instructors. The study data consist of attitudinal and behavioral measures for students and instructors, and learning achievement scores for students both on computerized, on-line tests and in-class, paper-and-pencil tests at the beginning and end of study semesters. Attitudinal and behavioral sources of variance in learning achievement were evaluated using linear multiple regression and multiple classification analysis.

The results show strongly the CAI/LARS is effective in promoting mastery of basic language skills among beginning newswriting students. Immediate improvement in tested language skills is consistently 30 percent or higher. Retained improvement shown on end-of-semester tests is 5 to 6 percent. Students not using CAI/LARS show no improvement or even erosion of tested language skills over the study period. Skill improvement is neither sex-biased nor limited to students with either lower or higher verbal aptitudes.

The most important factor explaining variation in student learning with CAI/LARS is the instructor. Instructor behaviors contributing most to student learning were requiring students to complete the curriculum and setting a deadline for completion. Reliance upon the computer's novelty and students' voluntary efforts did not promote student learning. In fact, while student and instructor attitudes were highly positive toward PLATO/CAI, the correlations of these attitudes with learning were mildly negative. Using computers may be fun, one might conclude, but substantive learning with them may be less so. The results suggest that CAI/LARS may effectively be substituted for instructor tutoring in basic language skills, but such substitute study must be required of the student.

Important research questions now concern adoption and appropriate integration of CAI resources into journalism schools and courses. . . . (Author's abstract exceeds stipulated maximum length. Discontinued here with permission of author.) UMI

AN ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF THE NEWSPAPER PRESERVATION ACT Order No. DA8225666

OZANICH, GARY WILLIAM, PH.D. *The University of Wisconsin - Madison*, 1982. 231pp. Supervisor: Professor William B. Blakenburg

The Newspaper Preservation Act grants an antitrust exemption to 24 general circulation metropolitan newspapers in the United States to discontinue economic competition while maintaining separate editorial staffs. Such joint operating agreements were declared in violation of antitrust law in *Citizen Publishing v. U.S.* (394 U.S. 131, 1969) based on price fixing, profit pooling and tying arrangements. This act has been alternatively criticized and lauded. Critics charge the act is special-interest legislation designed to benefit the politically powerful newspaper lobby. Its supporters argue the bill provides for editorial competition in what would otherwise consolidate to a monopoly market.

This study identifies the actual effects of the Newspaper Preservation Act through a cost/benefit analysis. The results of evidence brought to bear on theorized costs and benefits are listed below:

	Benefit/Cost	Support/Reject
Benefit 1:	The NPA preserves a failing editorial voice.	Reject
Benefit 2:	The NPA provides for enhanced editorial competition.	Reject
Cost 1:	The NPA allows the affected firms market power in setting the price of advertising.	Support
Cost 2:	The NPA results in a market structure that is a barrier to entry for new competition.	Reject
Cost 3:	The NPA results in a market structure that is a barrier to technological progressiveness.	Reject

This study suggests a modest effect for the Newspaper Preservation Act, that of conferring limited monopoly power in the setting of advertising rates. The magnitude of this monopoly power is limited by the availability of product substitutes. Further, the results indicate that this monopoly power may be temporary. While the affected newspapers appear not to be failing at the time of entering the agreements, the analysis does indicate some of these newspapers have been experiencing a "downward spiral" of circulation and advertising that would lead to consolidation to a monopoly market. Thus, monopoly power would exist as a social cost only until such a consolidation would occur.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS COVERAGE IN U.S. NEWSMAGAZINES: A CONTENT ANALYSIS AND SOME CORRELATES

Order No. DA8309186

PASADEOS, YORGO, PH.D. *The University of Texas at Austin*, 1982. 260pp. Supervisor: James W. Tankard, Jr.

A content analysis of *Time* and *Newsweek* over a recent eight-year period attempted to arrive at a description of international news coverage in the two newsmagazines. In addition, the presence of a number of correlates of international news coverage was investigated. On a practical level, the global flow of news has been an important area of international concern, because of Third World charges that such flow is distorted and unbalanced in favor of the industrialized countries. From a theoretical standpoint, attempts to explain the flow of news have mentioned event characteristics, country characteristics and journalistic news values as determinant forces on what is customarily covered in the news media.

The study found that international news coverage of U.S. newsmagazines was more crisis-oriented than national news coverage. Also, coverage of developing nations was found to be more crisis-oriented than coverage of developed nations, leading to the conclusion that developing-country complaints about distorted coverage are warranted in the case of newsmagazines. Charges that developing countries receive less coverage than developed countries were not supported by absolute coverage figures. A hypothesized strong relationship between international news coverage and coverage of U.S. affairs was not supported by the findings. The only change in coverage between the two halves of the period studied was that coverage of developing countries had become relatively less crisis-oriented in the second half. Only minor differences in coverage were found between *Time* and *Newsweek*.

In addition, the study found a strong correlation between U.S. newsmagazine coverage and the number of American correspondents stationed in different countries. Although a number of other variables (most notably, area, trade volume, telephone communications with the U.S. and number of Americans living abroad) also were found to correlate strongly with coverage, most were also strongly correlated with each other. A regression analysis revealed that the number of correspondents alone would explain a very large part of the variance contributed by a set of predictor variables, leaving only the volume of telephone communications with the U.S. as a potent secondary predictor of newsmagazine coverage.

THE VIETNAM VETERAN AND THE MEDIA: A COMPARATIVE CONTENT ANALYSIS OF MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE WAR AND THE VETERAN 1968-1973

Order No. DA8303712

PATTERSON, OSCAR, III, PH.D. *The University of Tennessee*, 1982. 254pp. Major Professor: Herbert H. Howard

There appears to be little doubt that the Vietnam War was the most unpopular war that American soldiers have ever fought. At the same time, little research has been conducted in the area of the media's treatment of what is described as our first truly media war.

This study applies content analysis to a stratified random sample of network television news programs for the period August 5, 1968, to August 15, 1973 and a sample of three major weekly news magazines--*Time*, *Newsweek*, and *Life*--correlated by date with the television sample. The analysis utilized 48 topic areas. Only the manifest content was studied and only non-advertisement portions of the programs and magazines were considered.

Each story that was coded into the topic category "Vietnam" was analyzed further using 45 content categories, 6 writing mode categories, and 10 presentations categories. The intent of the analysis was to report on the (1) number of Vietnam-related stories, (2) specific content of those stories, (3) placement of those stories, (4) percentage of items devoted to Vietnam, (5) content of other stories carried and (6) words used in relation to the parties involved. For the analysis, video tapes of the actual news broadcasts and back issues of the magazines were used.

The analysis revealed that Vietnam dominated television news programs to the extent that 24.2% of all stories aired were Vietnam-related. News magazines devoted only 6.4% of their stories to Vietnam-related events. Of the Vietnam-related stories aired, network television news programs devoted an average of 3.4% of their stories to combat with accompanying film or photographs. Weekly news magazines printed an average of 5.2% of their stories in this category.

Anti-war news reports received more coverage on a per-item basis on television and in news magazines than did combat. Television devoted an average of 9.0% of its Vietnam-related coverage to the anti-war movement, and news magazines gave 18.5%, on the average, to the same topic.

It was concluded that Vietnam was the dominant topic on regular evening network news programs for the period studied. Vietnam was not the dominant topic, though, in the weekly news magazines studied. And, as with the television coverage, graphic representation of battle or photographs of the dead and wounded were not predominant.

TOWARD A NON-HIERARCHICAL STRUCTURE FOR NEWSWRITING: THE EFFECTS OF COMPOUND SENTENCES WITH SEMICOLONS ON PERCEPTIONS OF READABILITY AND OBJECTIVITY

Order No. DA8303714

RIFFE, FLORENCE CLARK, PH.D. *The University of Tennessee*, 1982. 102pp. Major Professor: George Everett

The purpose of this study was to determine the effects of non-hierarchical, or coordinated, structure in newswriting on readers' perceptions of readability and objectivity. To operationalize non-hierarchical structure, a news story was written in three versions, all with identical content but with structural differences as follows: Version One (control)--journalism's traditional inverted pyramid model of organization with no semicolons; Version Two (experimental)--coordinated model of organization using compound sentences with semicolons to juxtapose opposing arguments; Version Three (experimental)--coordinated model of organization identical to Version Two but with periods in place of semicolons between independent clauses to form separate simple sentences for juxtaposed, opposing arguments.

It was hypothesized that the coordinated versions would be perceived as more objective but less readable than and less preferable to the inverted pyramid version. Further, it was hypothesized that the coordinated version with semicolons would be perceived as more objective but less readable than and less preferable to the coordinated version with no semicolons.

An after-only laboratory experiment was conducted with 109 college students enrolled in a junior-level marketing class. Subjects were randomly but unobtrusively assigned to three groups for reading the three story versions.

Dependent measurement was via seven-step scales between twenty-one pairs of descriptions, opposites in meaning, that operationalized readability, objectivity, and preference.

One-way analysis of variance, coupled with Scheffe's multiple comparison test and the test of Least Significant Difference, showed significant differences between pairs of groups on the following measures: reading ease, simplicity, coherence, believability, and cumulative readability. To summarize findings, the coordinated version with semicolons was perceived as less readable and less believable than the other versions.

Though the data were insufficient for accepting the hypotheses on objectivity and on preference, findings did suggest that the semicolon alone caused lower scores on readability.

Both quantitative data and open-ended remarks requested from subjects suggest that the semicolon acts not only as a cue for complexity in writing that is cognitively simple, but also as a clue about the believability of a message.

Further research was recommended to test additional variables in the coordinated model that may impinge on readability and to explore more precisely the interaction of readability, objectivity, and believability as a function of newsreaders' fantasies about imagined writers based on stylistic cues.

DOROTHY DAY AND *THE CATHOLIC WORKER*, 1933-1982

Order No. DA8301995

ROBERTS, NANCY LEE, PH.D. *University of Minnesota*, 1982. 278pp.

This study traces the history of *The Catholic Worker*, co-founded in New York City in 1933 as the organ of the Catholic Worker Movement by Dorothy Day and Peter Maurin, to 1982. An analysis of content indicates that the monthly has hewed to a remarkably consistent editorial line, espousing communitarian Christianity, pacifism, nonviolent social justice, and personal activism. In 1982, with a circulation of about 100,000, the paper still costs only one cent, supplemented by donations. The consistently high quality of articles and illustrations is also a unique distinction for a small ideological publication. Contributors have included artists Fritz Eichenberg and Ade Bethune, and writers Peter Maurin, Jacques Maritain, J. F. Powers, Thomas Merton, Daniel and Philip Berrigan, and of course Dorothy Day herself, a skilled and powerful reporter and columnist.

Day's strong role as editor and publisher is emphasized. *The Catholic Worker*, which Day largely controlled, united her youthful Socialist concern for the masses and social justice with the devout Catholicism of her more mature years. A sincere Catholic traditionalist and a secular radical, Day avoided interference from the Church hierarchy by never criticizing Catholic teachings, only the Church's failure to live up to them. Day kept the paper consistently pacifist even through World War II, when subscriptions dropped from 190,000 to 50,500. During the late 1950s, Day, the paper, and Catholic Workers inspired pacifists to a new kind of activism--civil disobedience to protest the prevailing cold war mentality of war preparations.

The Catholic Worker occupies its own unique position in American journalism history, but is evaluated with *I. F. Stone's Weekly*, *The Masses*, and other radical publications. Its future is less certain since Day's death in 1980, but it has had an impact much greater than its size would suggest on American consciences. Today whenever the roots of contemporary concern for pacifism and social justice are traced, Dorothy Day and *The Catholic Worker* are invariably acknowledged as quiet but pervasive influences.

THE PHOTOJOURNALIST AND THE LAW: THE RIGHT TO GATHER NEWS THROUGH PHOTOGRAPHY

Order No. DA8229314

SHERER, MICHAEL DWIGHT, PH.D. *Southern Illinois University at Carbondale*, 1982. 303pp. Major Professor: Harry W. Stonecipher

The photojournalist's legal right to take pictures of newsworthy information and events provides the focus for this dissertation. This study involved the examination and evaluation of the photojournalist's First Amendment right to gather information through photography as defined by 196 state and federal court cases plus 222 state and federal statutes and administrative regulations.

A wide variety of subject areas, which often involved newsworthy information, were examined. The news photographer's right of access to adult court proceedings, juvenile court proceedings, plus other situations and facilities under governmental control such as prisons and accident scenes was examined and evaluated. This study also contains an extended analysis of how the news photographer's desire to take pictures is limited by an individual's right of privacy. The photojournalist's ability to resist governmental information gathering efforts through the use of warranted searches and subpoenas is also included. The photojournalist's right to copy judicial records such as photographs and video tapes used as evidence in trials is also examined. The extent to which state and federal open meetings and open records statutes enhance photographic newsgathering is also a part of this study.

The principle finding from this research is that the photojournalist does not have an absolute First Amendment right to take pictures in any situation. Any right to gather photographic information that may be granted by the state and federal courts, legislatures, or other government officials is at best a limited right. Generally speaking, the right to gather news through photography faces many more restrictions on the photojournalist than does the more traditional First Amendment right to publish information.

The application of the law to photographic newsgathering is often based upon the public's right of access to the information sought. If the public has a general right of access, then the news photographer will also be allowed to take pictures in most circumstances. However, if the public does not have a general right of access to the information sought, then there is very little likelihood that the photojournalist will be granted any right to gather news through photography.

WASTED WORDS? NEWS RELEASES AND THE MAKING OF WASHINGTON NEWS

Order No. DA8301280

TODD, RUSSELL GEORGE, PH.D. *Stanford University*, 1982. 169pp.

Hundreds of news releases pour into Washington news bureaus, and publicists believe they can influence news through releases. This study examines the proposition in the Washington bureaus of three elite media, *Newsweek*, the Los Angeles *Times* and ABC World News Tonight. Releases arriving at each are compared statistically to each bureau's news, and editors and reporters explain how they use releases. Results indicate that, in these bureaus, writers do not rely on releases for individual stories. However, the structure of the release flow into the bureaus resembles the news produced by each. Relative prominence of topics and sources is similar in release and news flows. The study concludes that the release-flow structure does not influence news in a cause-and-effect way. The similarity in release and news flows probably stems from information and frames of reference shared among Washington journalists and sources.

THE URBAN DAILY PRESS: BALTIMORE, 1797-1816

Order No. DA8229990

ZIMMER, ROXANNE MARIE, PH.D. *The University of Iowa*, 1982. 383pp. Supervisors: Professor James W. Carey, Professor John Erickson

While in its infancy, the early nineteenth-century Baltimore daily press catered to the city's mercantile elite. No concern was more visible in the *Telegraphe*, the *Federal Gazette*, the *Federal Republican*, and the *American* than commercial affairs. Challenges to American cargo, local harbor traffic, and trade restrictions on U.S. commodities abroad were routinely reported. Although America had yet to prove herself an equal international trading partner, Baltimore dailies praised the success of American merchants overseas. The press also introduced the simultaneous development of home industry and western territories. The significance of these findings is that, contrary to press history accounts, news affecting the American marketplace received as much, if not more, attention than news surrounding U.S. politics.

This study also explores the relationship between the daily press and the particular seaport city in which it flourished. Of importance to the ascent of Baltimore circa 1800 were the circumstances of early capitalism. Speculators and investors, who gave the city its reputation, depended on mercantile intelligence for entrepreneurial transactions. It was this need to exchange information, not of local markets, but of national and international ones, that made the city's daily press attractive. By taking up the agenda of Baltimore's mercantile public, however narrowly constructed, the dailies advanced the interests of those employing news in the conduct of business.

Local news was rarely compiled by editors in the first twenty years of Baltimore's incorporation. News of Baltimore crime and business was available, however, through advertisements purchased by city residents. Advertising, the most voluminous content category, may have indirectly elevated the position of daily editor. Ad subscribers regularly chose the daily editor as their personal agent in selling goods and services, as well as finding jobs and misplaced property. This study, a content analysis of selected issues of four daily newspapers between 1797 and 1816, also considers pretelegraphic newsgathering, news transmission rates, and the daily printing schedule of the early 1800's.

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